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In re Patent No. 5,978,786 :
Issue Date: November 02, 1999 :
Application No. 08/943,742 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 03, 1997 :
Attorney Docket No. :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed May 29, 2012, to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This patent expired on November 02, 2011 for failure to pay the eleven and one-half year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office. Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the patent unless a "Fee Address" Indication Form (see PTO/SB/47) and Request for Customer Number (see PTO/SB/125) are submitted.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4231.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

/Michelle R. Eason/
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cc: **MICHELLE R. KEARNS**
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